

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /126 R

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TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF ECONOMY QUESTION RE PETROLEUM

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1716

1) RESEARCH AND ENQUIRIES TO OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES HAVE
FAILED TO FIND ANYTHING TO SUBSTANTIATE HONDURAN
PRESS STORY, QUOTED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMY VILLANUEVA,
THAT A US OIL COMPANY SOME NINE YEARS AGO PREPARED A
REPORT AFFIRMING THAT OIL FOUND IN HONDURAS COULD
PRODUCE 50,000 BARRELS PER DAY. UNLESS MORE INFORMATION
IS PROVIDED (E.G., NAME OF COMPANY INVOLVED), NOTHING
FURTHER CAN BE DONE TO TRACK DOWN SUCH REPORT FROM
THIS END.

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2) HONDURAN PRESS STORIES (REFTEL PARA 3) APPEAR TO BE
SOURCED TO QUOTE DR. JAIME RAMIREZ UNQUOTE. IF HE IS
STILL ALIVE, MINISTER VILLANUEVA MIGHT WISH TO ASK HIM
ABOUT IT.

3) THERE WAS AN UNPRECEDENTED SPATE OF OIL INTEREST AND
EXPLORATION ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE

CARIBBEAN IN ABOUT 1969, INCLUDING SOME ACTIVITY IN
HONDURAS. WE WONDER WHETHER SOMETHING SPECULATIVE

MIGHT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN AT THAT TIME, POSTULATING THE
POSSIBILITY OF OIL RESOURCES IN HONDURAS WITHOUT HAVING
ANY BASIS IN DRILLING RESULTS. RECENT HONDURAN PRESS
STORIES COULD REPRESENT MEMORY OF SOME SUCH EARLIER
SPECULATIVE REPORT.

4) DEPARTMENT (EB/FSE) WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
UPDATED MAP OF OIL CONCESSION AREAS IN HONDURAS IF
AVAILABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: PKBULLEN:MEM
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ISecure: 1
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